DC
WE DEFY YOU TO UNLOCK THE SHOCKING
SECRETS OF
SINISTER HOUSE
20¢
...AND NOW, MY FRIENDS—WHO WAS THE VICTIM—WILL SOON OUT...
...THE MAN WHO KILLED HIM!
DEATH'S LAST BATTLE

IN THE SINISTER HOUSE WHERE A CORPSE LAY BURIED SOON WOULD BE HEARD...
DEATH'S LAST RATTLE
EERILY, DUSK CASTS HER CREEPING SHADOWS OVER A BIZARRE COURTROOM...
IS ALL THE JURY ASSEMBLED? THE PROSECUTION? THE DEFENDANT AND HIS COUNSEL?
THEY ARE, YOUR HONOR!
SKREEEK
THEN LET THE COFFIN BE OPENED!
STORY: GEORGE KASHDAN
ART: RAMONA FRADON

SECRETS OF SINISTER HOUSE, Vol. 4, No. 17, Apr.-May, 1974. Published bi-monthly by NATIONAL PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS, INC., 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10019. Carmine Infantino, Publisher. Murray Boltinoff, Editor. Sol Harrison, Vice-President—Production Manager. Advertising Representative, Sanford Schwarz & Co., Inc., 16 West 46th Street, New York, N.Y. 10036. Copyright © 1974 by National Periodical Publications, Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. No Actual persons, living or dead, are intended or should be inferred. Printed in U.S.A.

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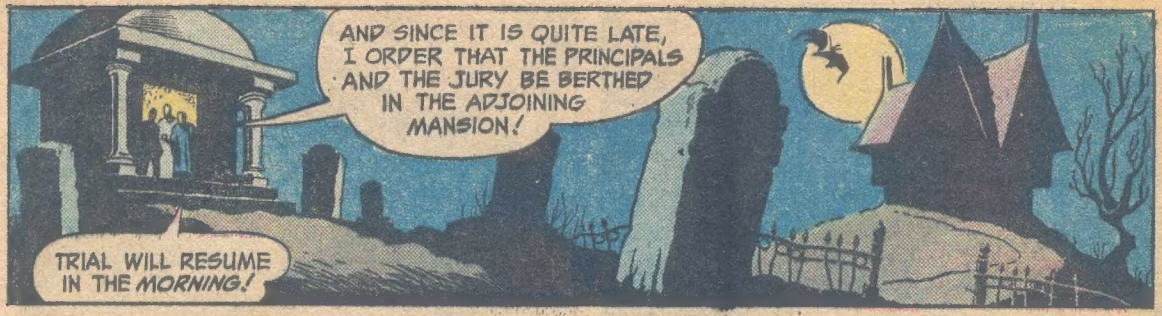
...TO A STARTLING MOMENT IN A TRIAL FOR MURDER...
...AND IT'S TRUE, YOUR HONOR, THAT MY CLIENT FOUGHT WITH THE DECEASED ON THE NIGHT OF HIS DEATH!
THE CORONER SAID THE VICTIM DIED OF A BLOW ON THE HEAD...
YOUR HONOR! I OBJECT!
BUT I SAY THE CORONER COULD BE MISTAKEN!

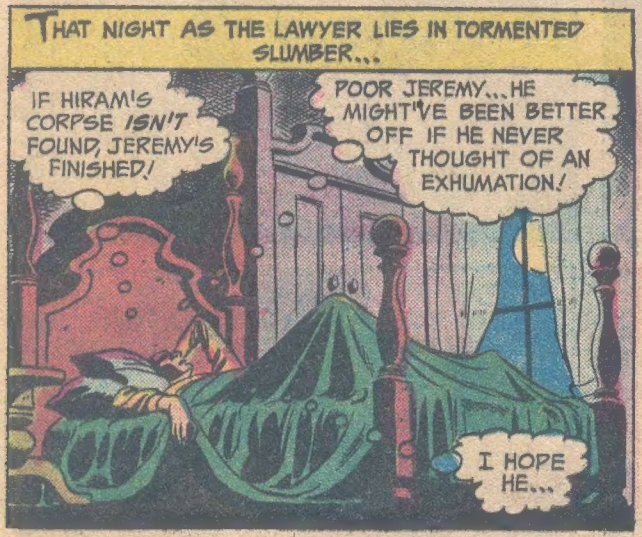
JUST A MOMENT, MR. PROSECUTOR ... LET US HEAR WHAT THE DEFENSE ATTORNEY IS SUGGESTING!
I'M SUGGESTING THAT A THOROUGH AUTOPSY WAS NOT MADE!
DEATH COULD HAVE COME FROM OTHER CAUSES, AFTER THE BLOW ON THE HEAD!

WHAT YOU SAY IS QUITE POSSIBLE!
I HEREBY ORDER THE TRIAL MOVED TO THE SITE OF THE VICTIM'S GRAVE... WHERE THE CORPSE SHALL BE EXHUMED!

I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D PULL IT OFF, CLAUD!
A FINE WAY TO TALK ABOUT YOUR PARTNER, YOUR PAL AND YOUR LAWYER!
KEEP YOUR FINGERS CROSSED, JEREMY...
IF HIRAM DIED OF ANY OTHER CAUSES, YOU'RE HOME FREE!

BUT NOW, WHERE THE EMPTY CASKET DIMS THE DEFENDANT'S FINAL HOPE...
APPARENTLY, GENTLEMEN, SOMEONE STOLE THE BODY!
WE SHALL BE FORCED TO CONTINUE THE TRIAL WITHOUT FURTHER AUTOPSY--OR UNTIL THE BODY IS FOUND!
2


AND SINCE IT IS QUITE LATE, I ORDER THAT THE PRINCIPALS AND THE JURY BE BERTHED IN THE ADJOINING MANSION!
TRIAL WILL RESUME IN THE MORNING!


THAT NIGHT AS THE LAWYER LIES IN TORMENTED SLUMBER...
IF HIRAM'S CORPSE ISN'T FOUND, JEREMY'S FINISHED!
POOR JEREMY... HE MIGHT'VE BEEN BETTER OFF IF HE NEVER THOUGHT OF AN EXHUMATION!
I HOPE HE...

THUDD.. SWISSSHHH THUD
WHAT'S THAT...? S-SOMEONE ELSE IS IN THIS ROOM!
SWISSSHH

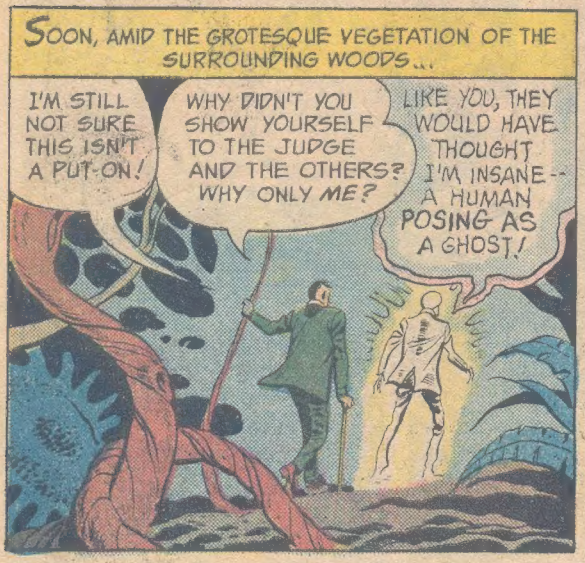
HELLO, CLAUD...
OMIGOD--!
DON'T BE FRIGHTENED ...I'M HERE TO HELP YOU--AND JEREMY!

WHO ARE YOU? WHAT SORT OF GRUESOME JOKE ARE YOU PLAYING?
IT'S NO JOKE, CLAUD!
I'M THE GHOST OF HIRAM, YOUR OTHER PARTNER, WHOM JEREMY IS ACCUSED OF MURDERING!

HERE I'VE BEEN LOCKED, EARTHBOUND, WAITING FOR THE CHANCE TO CLEAR JEREMY!
TRUE, WE HAD A FALLING OUT--A FIGHT-- BUT IT WASN'T HE WHO KILLED ME!

AFTER JEREMY LEFT ME UNCONSCIOUS, SOMEONE ELSE SLIPPED IN AND POISONED ME!
CAN-- CAN WE PROVE THAT?

YES--IF WE CAN FIND MY CORPSE!
I DO NOT KNOW WHO STOLE IT, BUT I CAN SENSE ITS EMANATIONS!
COME--I WILL LEAD YOU TO IT!


SOON, AMID THE GROTESQUE VEGETATION OF THE SURROUNDING WOODS...
I'M STILL NOT SURE THIS ISN'T A PUT-ON!
WHY DIDN'T YOU SHOW YOURSELF TO THE JUDGE AND THE OTHERS? WHY ONLY ME?
LIKE YOU, THEY WOULD HAVE THOUGHT I'M INSANE--A HUMAN POSING AS A GHOST!

BUT THEY WILL BELIEVE YOU... AND YOU WILL BE ABLE TO LEAD THEM TO THIS BURIAL MOUND!
GO AHEAD, CLAUD... DIG IT UP!

HANDS CLAW FRANTICALLY AT THE EARTH--TILL FINALLY...
THERE I LIE, CLAUD!
ONCE A FURTHER AUTOPSY DETECTS THE POISON, THE LAW WILL BE ABLE TO SEEK OUT THE TRUE KILLER!
YES-- I KNOW...

THAT'S WHY I CARRIED ALONG THIS LIGHTER FLUID...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

WHAT I SHOULD'VE DONE IN THE FIRST PLACE!
CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING
4

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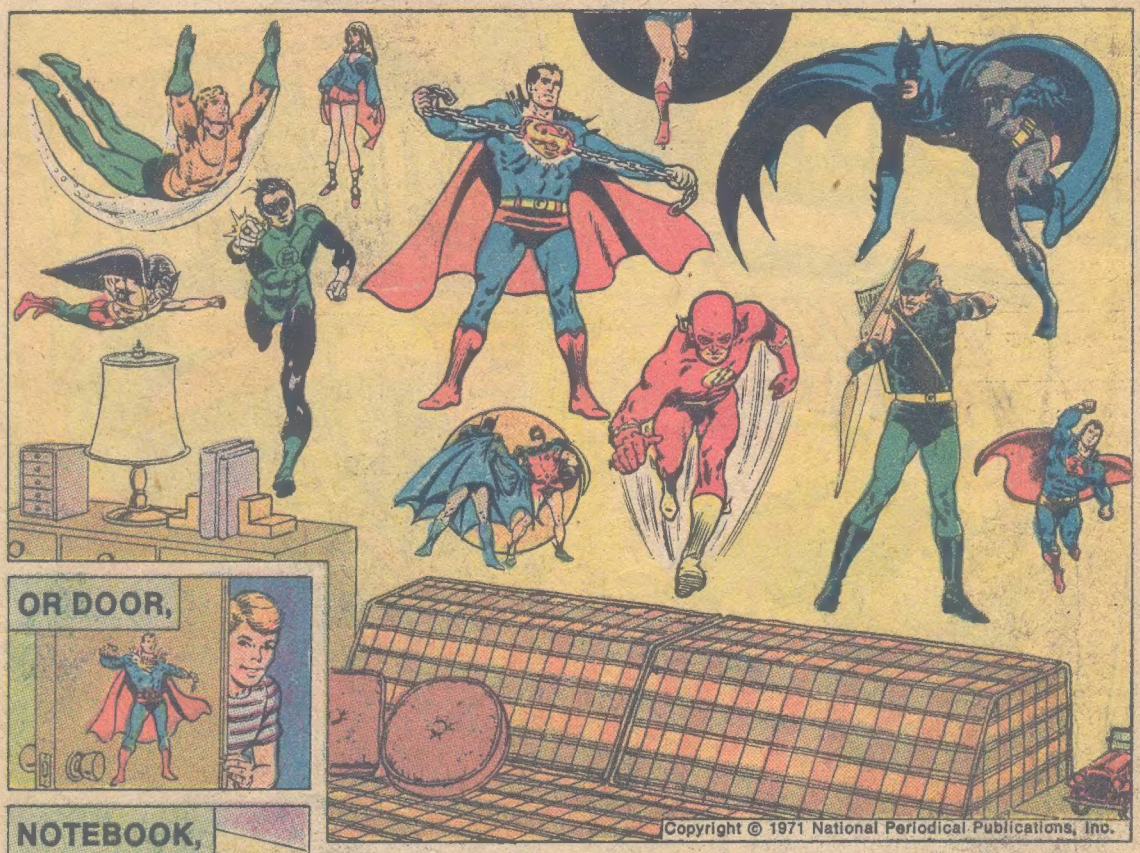

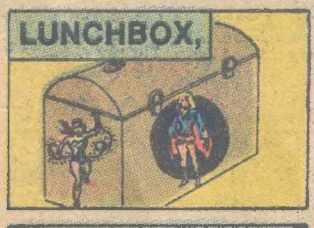

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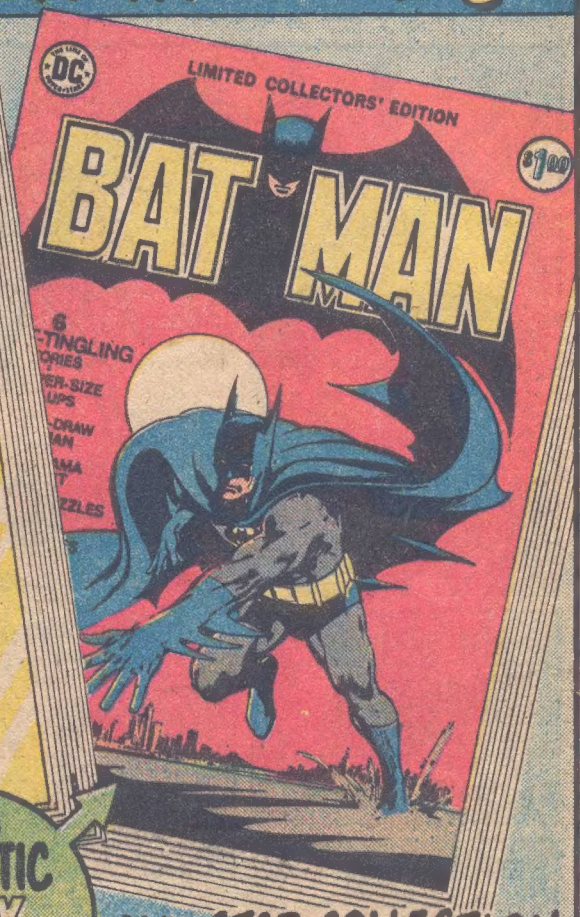

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BY THE TIME THE FLAME SUBSIDES, THERE'LL BE NO EVIDENCE OF ANYTHING-- EXCEPT SOME CHARRED SCRAPS!
WHOOOSSHH

YOU MEAN-- IT WAS YOU WHO...
YES, HIRAM! I FED YOU THE POISON WHILE YOU WERE STILL UNCONSCIOUS--AND I STOLE YOUR CORPSE, AFTER THAT FOOL JEREMY INSISTED THAT I ASK FOR AN EXHUMATION!

EVEN IF THIS BURNED BODY IS EVER FOUND, IT'LL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO TRACE POISONING!
JEREMY WILL BE CONVICTED, AND I'LL WIND UP SOLE OWNER OF OUR LAW FIRM!

I--I WON'T LET YOU GET AWAY WITH THIS!
HOW CAN YOU STOP ME?
LIKE YOU YOURSELF SAID, YOU'LL BE LAUGHED OUT OF THE COURTROOM!

NEXT MORNING, AS THE PROCEEDINGS RESUME...
SINCE THIS TRIAL HAS ALREADY BEEN MOVED TO THE SCENE OF THE CRIME, I HAVE DIRECTED THAT IT CONTINUE HERE IN THIS HOUSE!
ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE TO TRANSPORT ALL WITNESSES!

I GUESS YOU KNOW, OLD BUDDY, THERE'S NOT MUCH HOPE LEFT FOR US!
YOU'RE TELLING ME! IF ONLY WE COULD FIGURE OUT WHO SNATCHED THE BODY... AND WHY!

INEXORABLY, WITHIN A FEW SHORT HOURS, THE TRIAL REACHES ITS FATEFUL CLIMAX...
...AND I MUST INSTRUCT THE JURY THAT THE VERDICT CAN BE REACHED ONLY ON THE BASIS OF EVIDENCE PRESENTED!
THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE CORPSE MUST HAVE NO INFLUENCE ON YOUR FINAL DECISION!

LONG, TENSE MINUTES PASS, A SEEMING ETERNITY, AND THEN ...
THE FOREMAN WILL DELIVER THE JURY'S VERDICT!

WE FIND THE DEFENDANT GUILTY AS CHARGED!

HAS THE DEFENDANT ANYTHING TO DECLARE BEFORE SENTENCE IS PRONOUNCED?
NO, I...I'VE NOTHING MORE TO SAY, YOUR HONOR!

BUT I HAVE, YOUR HONOR!

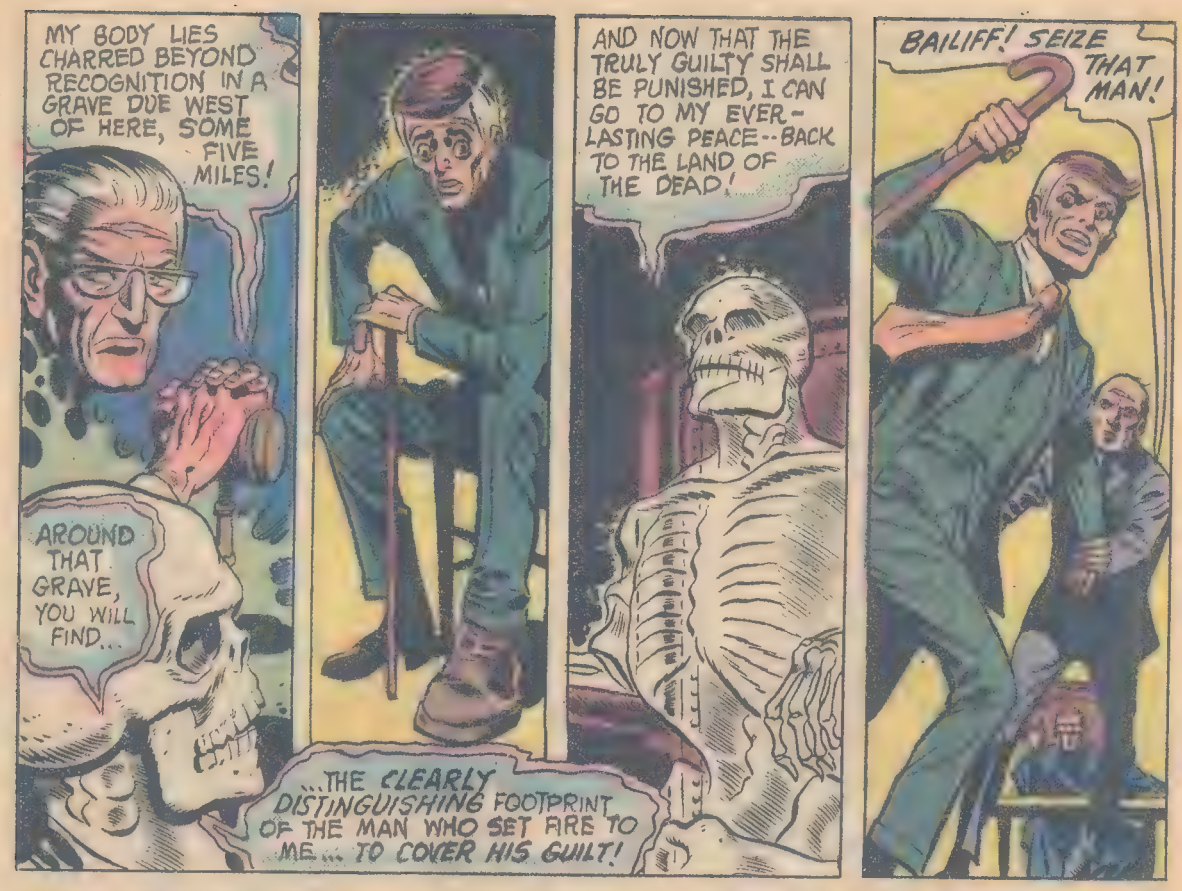
WHOEVER YOU ARE... YOU ARE MAKING A MOCKERY OF THESE PROCEEDINGS!
IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO BE HELD IN CONTEMPT OF COURT...
A GHOST CANNOT BE HELD IN CONTEMPT OF ANYTHING!

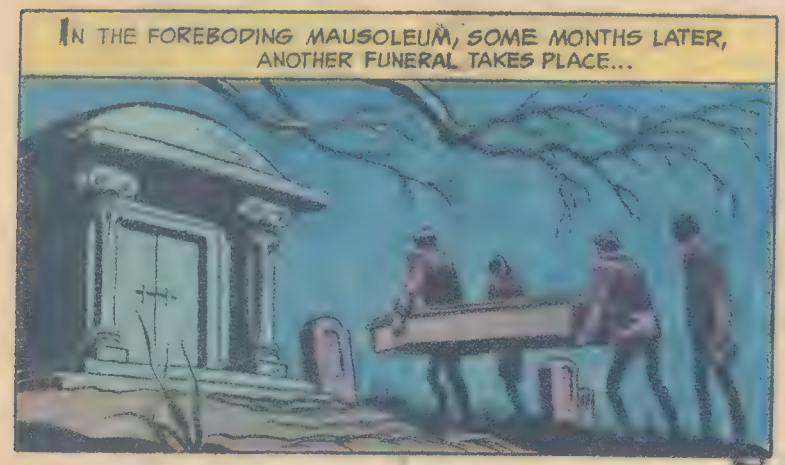
I ASK ONLY THAT I BE HEARD, FOR THE SAKE OF THE DEFENDANT! AFTERWARD, YOU MAY DO AS YOU WISH!
UNDER THOSE CONDITIONS I SHALL HEAR YOU OUT!

YOUR HONOR! THIS IS HIGHLY IRREGULAR!
GENTLEMEN, A MAN'S LIFE IS AT STAKE!
I AGREE WITH DEFENSE COUNSEL!
WE MUST HEAR ALL WITNESSES, NO MATTER HOW BIZARRE THEY MAY BE!

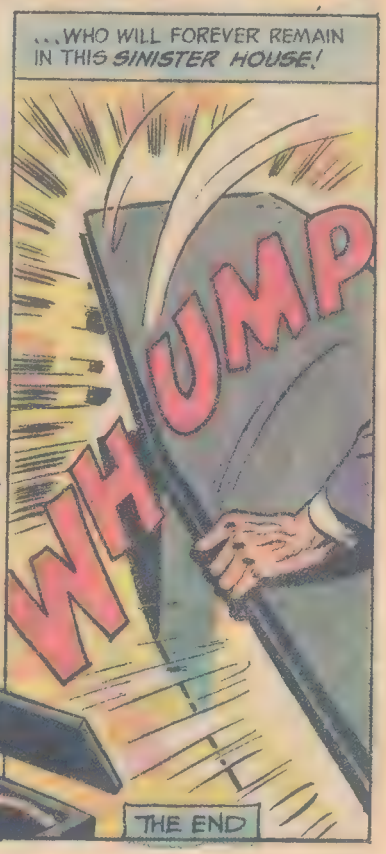
AFTER THE WITNESS HAS BEEN SWORN IN...
I SAY TO YOU THAT I AM THE SPIRIT OF THE MURDERED MAN!

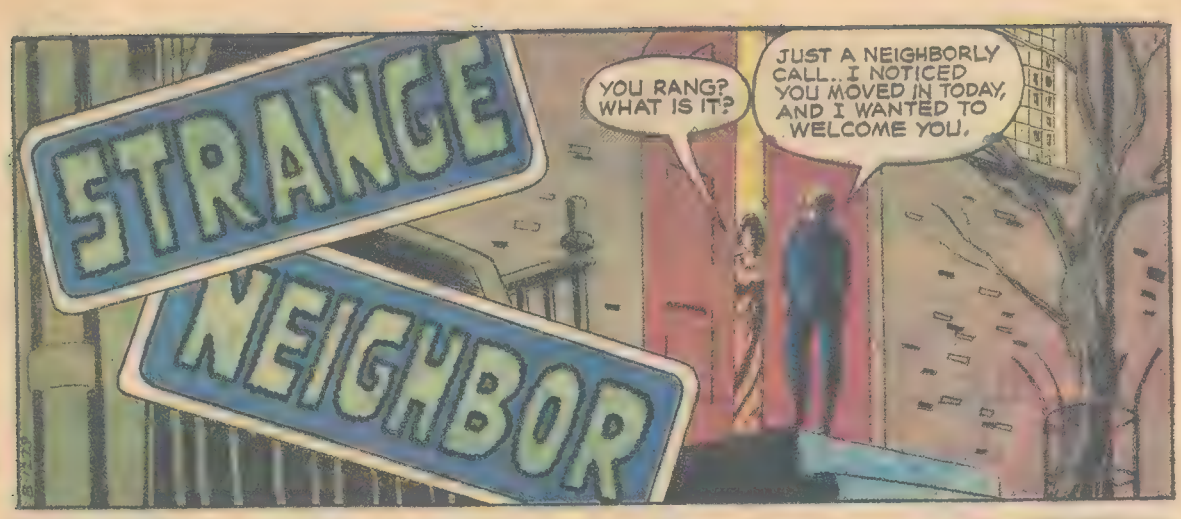
... AND I ACCUSE THAT MAN OF POISONING ME -- AND OF LATER ROBBING MY GRAVE!

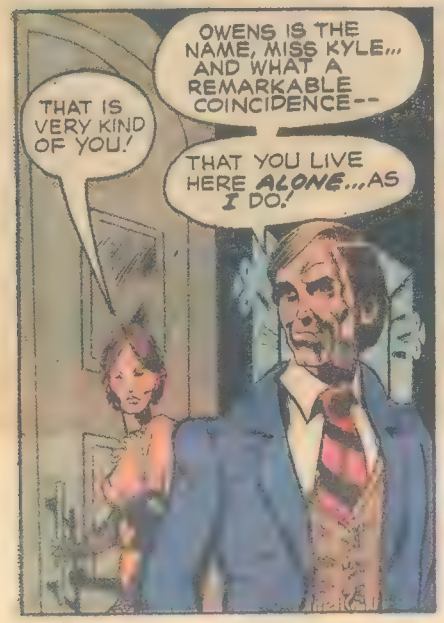

MY BODY LIES CHARRED BEYOND RECOGNITION IN A GRAVE DUE WEST OF HERE, SOME FIVE MILES!
AROUND THAT GRAVE, YOU WILL FIND...
...THE CLEARLY DISTINGUISHING FOOTPRINT OF THE MAN WHO SET FIRE TO ME... TO COVER HIS GUILT!
AND NOW THAT THE TRULY GUILTY SHALL BE PUNISHED, I CAN GO TO MY EVER-LASTING PEACE--BACK TO THE LAND OF THE DEAD!
BAILIFF! SEIZE THAT MAN!


IN THE FOREBODING MAUSOLEUM, SOME MONTHS LATER, ANOTHER FUNERAL TAKES PLACE...

WITHIN THE CASKET REPOSES THE BODY OF AN EXECUTED KILLER...


...WHO WILL FOREVER REMAIN IN THIS SINISTER HOUSE!
WHUMP
THE END


STRANGE NEIGHBOR
YOU RANG? WHAT IS IT?
JUST A NEIGHBORLY CALL.. I NOTICED YOU MOVED IN TODAY, AND I WANTED TO WELCOME YOU.


OWENS IS THE NAME, MISS KYLE... AND WHAT A REMARKABLE COINCIDENCE--
THAT IS VERY KIND OF YOU!
THAT YOU LIVE HERE ALONE...AS I DO!

LET'S TOAST OUR NEW-- AH-- RELATIONSHIP, SHALL WE?
INDEED YES! IT'S SO COMFORTING TO HAVE SOME-ONE LIKE YOU NEXT DOOR!

I SEE WE WON'T HAVE ANY TROUBLE! I HAD TO MOVE WHEN MY NEIGHBORS BECAME SUSPICIOUS ABOUT MY WORK!
LET ME SHOW YOU...

DON'T BE ALARMED! THEY'RE ALL DEAD -- STUFFED, I MIGHT SAY! YOU SEE, I'M A TAXIDERMIST...
I...ER... FEEL DIZZY... FAINT! WH-WHAT WAS IN THAT WINE?

SOMETHING TO HELP ME IN A NEW PROJECT!
GOOD HEAVENS! YOU-- YOU MEAN--? BUT YOU CAN'T!

YOU DIDN'T ASK ME... WHO I WAS-- INSPECTOR OF THE LOCAL CONSTABULARY! WHEN THE SERGEANT RINGS ME, AS HE DOES EVERY HOUR, AND GETS NO RESPONSE, HE'LL HAVE A CAR HERE IN A FEW MINUTES!
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CORPSE COMES ON TIME
HAH! YOU ALL LEAVE ON TIME, BUT I WARN THE LOT OF YOU-- I'LL FIRE THE NEXT WORKER WHO CHECKS IN LATE!
EXIT
EARLY NEXT MORNING...
NOW TO SEE FOR MYSELF WHO'S NOT HERE BY 8, AND THROW HIM OUT ON THE SPOT! ...FILTHY SUBWAY WAS DELAYED...
...IDIOT MAILMAN LEFT THOSE SACKS HERE! A MAN COULD BLOW HIS TOP!
UGH! SHARP PAINS IN MY CHEST...
TH-THEY'RE KILLING ME-- MY HEART!
HI! HAD TO RUSH, BUT THAT SLAVE-DRIVER'S NOT GOING TO CATCH ME COMING IN LATE!
HEY, WAIT FOR ME! I BEAT THE OLD DEVIL, DIDN'T I!
END
NO YOU DIDN'T, BUB, BUT HE'LL NEVER, NEVER KNOW!

A SINISTER HOUSE SPECIAL

JOHNNY PERIL
JOHNNY! THAT WAX FIGURE OF THE AXEMAN-- IT MOVED!
©COPYRIGHT by NATIONAL COMICS PUBLICATIONS, INC. 1952
NEVER HAD JOHNNY PERIL, MASTER-ADVENTURER, BEEN ENCIRCLED BY SUCH A RING OF HORRORS--ANY ONE OF WHICH COULD SPELL HIS DOOM! BUT WHICH ONE WOULD STRIKE FIRST--AND HOW? EVEN
DEATH HAS FIVE GUESSES!
STOP! STOP! PLEASE-- STOP!
THIS FOG IS SO HEAVY--ALMOST DIDN'T SEE THAT GIRL IN TIME! WONDER WHAT SHE'S DOING ON FOOT ON A ROAD AS DESERTED AS THIS ONE?
SCREEECH!

A SINISTER HOUSE SPECIAL

I'M SUZAN WHITE. I LOST MY WAY IN THE FOG--LANDED IN FRONT OF AN OLD MANSION. I WENT IN. BUT IT WAS DARK, DESERTED-LOOKING! I GOT PANICKY! DROPPED MY POCKETBOOK--RAN! WOULD YOU--WOULD YOU GO BACK WITH ME TO GET IT? EVERYTHING I HAVE IS IN IT!
SURE... HOP IN... I'M JOHNNY PERIL!
AN EMPTY HOUSE IS NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF!
I KNOW! BUT--BUT SOMEHOW THE PLACE FRIGHTENED ME! I CAN'T SAY WHY! CALL IT--CALL IT INTUITION IF YOU WILL!
THERE IT IS!
LOOK--HEAT LIGHTNING! PROBABLY GOING TO RAIN!
DOOR'S STILL OPEN! JUST AS YOU LEFT IT PROBABLY! WHERE DID YOU DROP YOUR BAG?
INSIDE--NEAR THE STAIRS! OHH--IT'S STARTING TO RAIN!
THERE IT IS!
SEE--I TOLD YOU THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF IN A DEGERTED HOUSE!
JOHNNY--LOOK!
CONTINUED ON 4TH PAGE FOLLOWING
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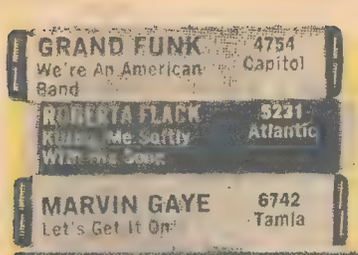

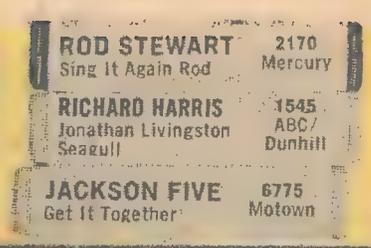

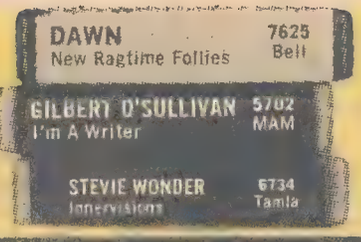

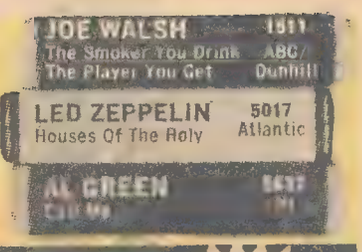

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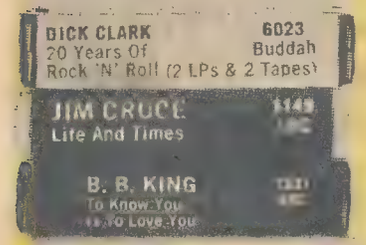

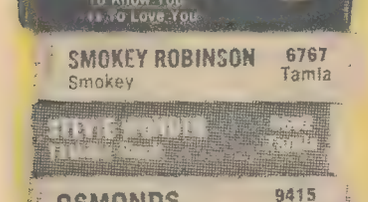

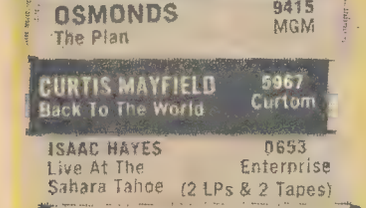

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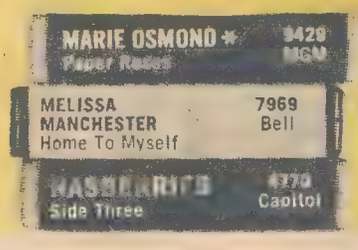
	CAN YOU CHOOSE ANY LP OR TAPE —ALL LABELS— AT A DISCOUNT	DO YOU EVER RECEIVE UNORDERED LPs OR TAPES?	MUST YOU BUY A MINIMUM NUMBER OF LPs OR TAPES? HOW MANY?	HOW MUCH MUST YOU SPEND TO FULFILL YOUR LEGAL OBLIGATION?
Columbia Record/Tape Clubs (as advertised in TV Guide July '73)	NO	YES	11 LPs/ 8 Tapes	$58.42 to $80.69
Capitol Record/Tape Clubs (as advertised in TV Guide Aug. '73)	NO	YES	12 LPs/ 12 Tapes	$73.87 to $97.87
RCA Record/Tape Clubs (as advertised in TV GUIDE May '73)	NO	YES	14 LPs/ 14 Tapes	$97.36 to $111.36
Citadel Record Club (as advertised in Parade July '72)	NO	YES	12 LPs	$56.25 to $74.25
Record Club of America	Guaranteed discounts up to 81% on LPs and tapes of ALL LABELS! Over 300 different manufacturers including Capitol, Columbia, RCA, Angel, London, etc.	There are no cards which you must return. Only the records and tapes you want are sent—and only when you ask us to send them.	No obligations! No yearly quota! Take as many, as few or nothing at all if you so decide.	You don't have to spend a penny—because you're not legally obligated to buy even a single record or tape!



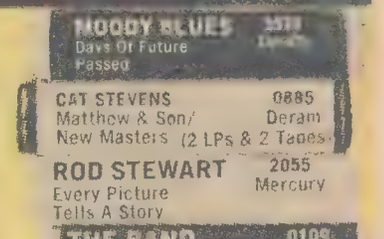
LONDON CHUCK BERRY	6882
GODSPELL Movie Soundtrack	7914
ERIC CLAPTON At His Best 2 LPs & 2 Tapes	0901
BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 9	7252
AROUND THE WORLD WITH THREE DOG NIGHT 2 LPs & 2 Tapes	0760
STEPPENWOLF 16 Greatest Hits	1214
THREE DOG NIGHT Seven Separate Fools	1404
SHA NA NA Golden Age Of Rock And Roll 2 LPs & 2 Tapes	0729
URIAH HEEP Magician's Birthday	2014
ERIC CLAPTON Clapton	5355
2001 A SPACE ODYSSEY	9050
NEWPORT FOLK FESTIVAL	3152
TEMPTATIONS Masterpieces	6619
GRASS ROOTS 16 Greatest Hits	1198
JAMES TAYLOR The Original Flying Machine	3707
GRAND FUNK Phoenix	4606
CURTIS MAYFIELD Superfly	5959
STEVE MILLER BAND Anthology 2 LPs & 2 Tapes	0117
BEETHOVEN Three Piano Sonatas	7047
HISTORY OF THE GUESS WHO*	9324
URIAH HEEP Look At Yourself	2022
URIAH HEEP Live 2 LPs & 2 Tapes	0208
THE DIONNE WARWICK STORY 2 LPs & 2 Tapes	0273
ARTHUR FIEDLER & THE BOSTON POPS Bacharach-David	5371
RIGHTEOUS BROTHERS 14 Greatest Hits	9373
CHOPIN Polonaise in C Sharp Minor	7054
MAMAS & PAPAS 20 Golden Hits 2 LPs & 2 Tapes	0612
ISAAC HAYES Shaft 2 LPs & 2 Tapes	0638
THE VERY BEST OF BILLIE HOLIDAY	9209
LOBO Of A Simple Man	7922
MANDRILL Composite Truth	5306
FIFTH DIMENSION Living Together, Growing Together	7880
DR. ZHIVAGO Movie Soundtrack	9365

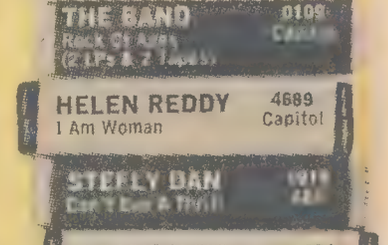
* These Selections Not Available In Tape

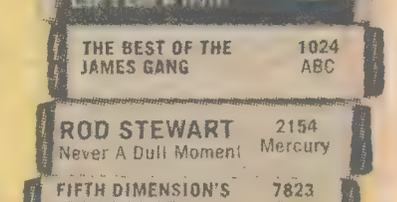
Other record and tape clubs make you choose from just a few labels. They make you buy up to 12 records or tapes a year. And if you don't return their monthly IBM cards, they send you an item you don't want and a bill for up to $8.38. But Record Club of America has BANISHED AUTOMATIC SHIPMENTS FOREVER! You'll never receive an unordered recording again.

Join now and get with your introductory recordings incredible "BUY 1, GET 2 FREE" offer on 100's more Top Hit LPs and Tapes! New SUPER-DISCOUNT offer every 28 days. Imagine paying $1.69 average price for $5.98 Stereo LPs...$1.99 for $6.98 Tape Cartridges and Cassettes. Yet that's exactly the Sale Offer mailing now to members even as you read this!

• 6 LPs or 5 Tapes for 99¢! • Lifetime Membership—with NO OBLIGATION to buy anything ever! **• Giant Master Discount Catalog** of all readily available records and tapes! **• Free subscriptions** to Disc & Tape Guide magazine and the WAREHOUSE™ Catalog! **• Your order computer processed** for Express Service Delivery! **• 100% Moneyback Guarantee!**







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ENTER 6 LP OR 5 TAPE NUMBERS BELOW—Sorry, No Mixing

IMPORTANT! YOU MUST CHECK ONE: ☐ LP or ☐ 8 TRACK or ☐ CASSETTE CP 3

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Street Apt

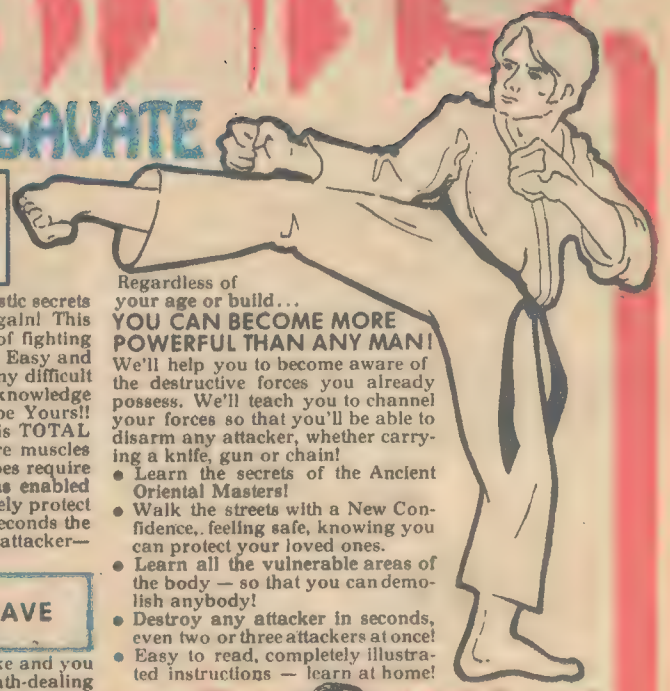
City State Zip

APO & FPO ADDRESSES, PLEASE FILL IN YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY NO.

CANADIANS mail coupon to above address. Orders will be serviced in Canada by Record Club of Canada. Prices and listings may vary slightly.

KARATE

JUDO-JIU-JITSU-SAVATE



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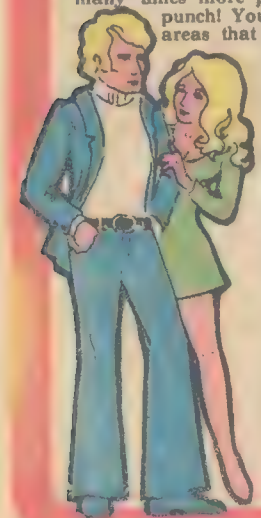

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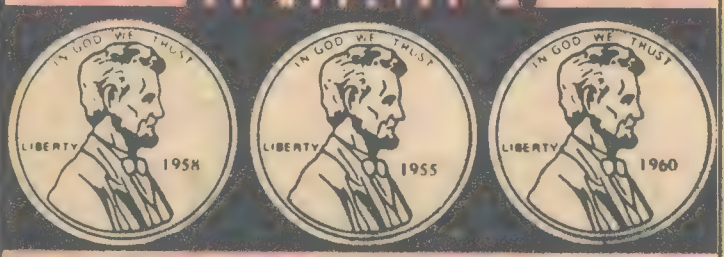
A SINISTER HOUSE SPECIAL

IT'S NOT REAL--IT'S JUST A WAX FIGURE!
OHHH--GAVE ME THE FRIGHT OF MY LIFE!
THERE'S ANOTHER ONE--A MUMMY! MY FLASH DIDN'T PICK THEM OUT BEFORE!
THIS PLACE LOOKS LIKE A FORGOTTEN MUSEUM--A CHAMBER OF HORRORS!
BUT WHY ARE THESE HORRIBLE FIGURES STILL HERE?
THE DOOR--!
SLAM!
THE WIND MUST'VE SLAMMED IT SHUT! I'LL OPEN IT AGAIN IN A MOMENT!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME--YOU CAN'T OPEN THE DOOR! I WAS AFRAID SOMETHING LIKE THIS WOULD HAPPEN! THAT'S WHY I RAN AWAY BEFORE! SOMETHING TERRIBLE IS GOING TO HAPPEN TO US! I KNOW IT!
3

A SINISTER HOUSE SPECIAL

CLICK!
WHO-- PUT THEM ON?
THE LIGHTS HAVE GONE ON!
LOOK!
GREAT THUNDER!
THE FIGURES--ALL THOSE HORRIBLE FIGURES--GONE! UNLESS--UNLESS WE IMAGINED THEM!
NO! EITHER OF US COULD HAVE--BUT NOT BOTH OF US! WE'LL GO UPSTAIRS! WE CAN GET OUT THROUGH A WINDOW!
THIS PLACE LOOKS AS IF NO ONE'S BEEN HERE FOR YEARS!
THEN--WHAT CLOSED THE DOOR--TURNED ON THE LIGHTS--REMOVED THE FIGURES?
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.
14

REWARD!



$80.00 paid for one of these coins: (1958, 1955DD, 1960). Do you know which one? Did you spend this coin today? Many other coins will bring you over $1,000.00. J. G. Rearden of St. Louis just found a recently dated penny that was worth $9,575.

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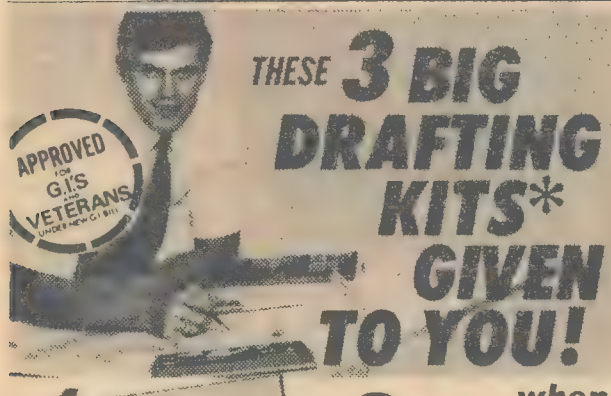

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A SINISTER HOUSE SPECIAL

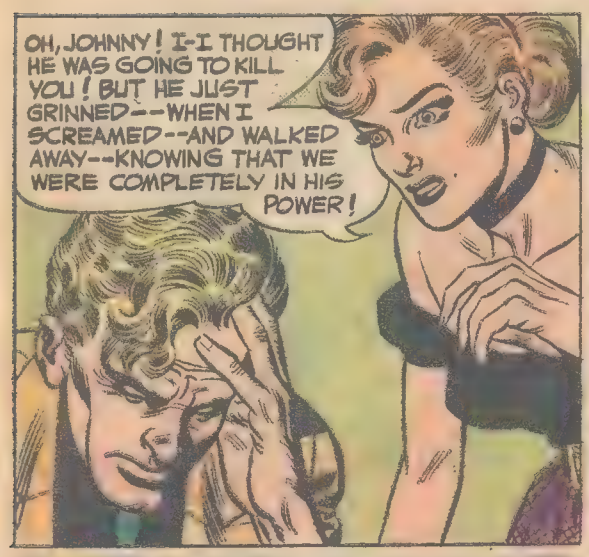
IT--IT SEEMED TO FADE AWAY--WHEN YOU FELL! JOHNNY! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
Y--YES... ALTHOUGH I ACHE... AS IF THAT MUMMY... WAS WRAPPED WITH LEAD BANDAGES! LET'S--LET'S GET GOING! WE'LL NEVER GET OUT STAYING HERE!
UNLESS A FIGURE OF A MUMMY CAN COME TO LIFE--WHAT WAS THAT?
I DON'T KNOW...
THIS ONE'S LOCKED TOO!
WE MUST KEEP TRYING!
THIS ONE'S OPEN! COME ON--
JOHNNY--NO FLOOR--FALLING!
GRAB THAT THING IN FRONT OF US!
IT'S A SPIDER WEB! A GIANT SPIDER WEB!
STUCK--! CAN'T MOVE!
5

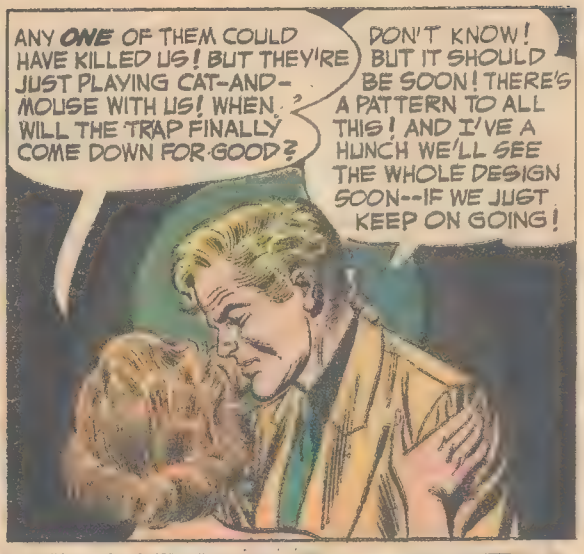
A SINISTER HOUSE SPECIAL

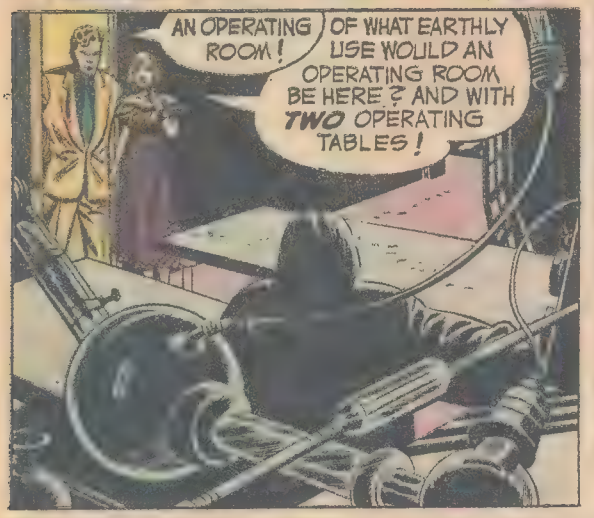
A SINISTER HOUSE SPECIAL

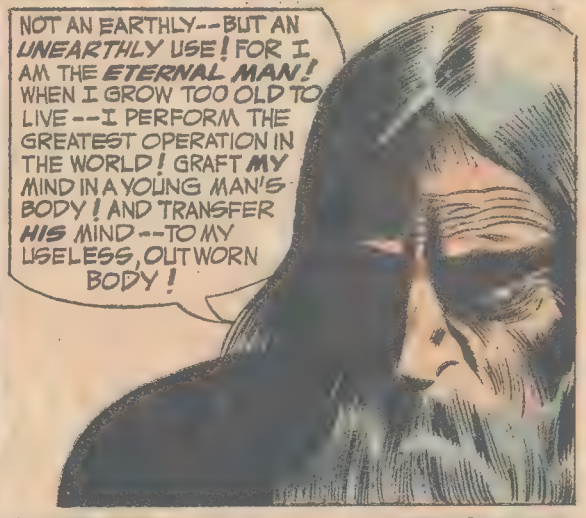
AFTER JOHNNY CUTS HIS COMPANION FREE OF THE WEB...
IT--IT COULD HAVE KILLED YOU! B-BUT IT LEFT--AS IF IT WERE PLAYING WITH US--AND COULD GET US WHENEVER IT WANTED!
WELL...THERE'S NO OTHER PLACE TO GO... BUT THROUGH THERE... LET'S GO!
CLANG!
THIS MUST BE A NIGHT-MARE! IT CAN'T BE REAL! DUMMIES CAN'T COME TO LIFE! WAX FIGURES CAN'T THREATEN YOU! THIS MUST BE A DREAM!
SWISH!
PING!
UHH--! THIS IS NO DREAM!

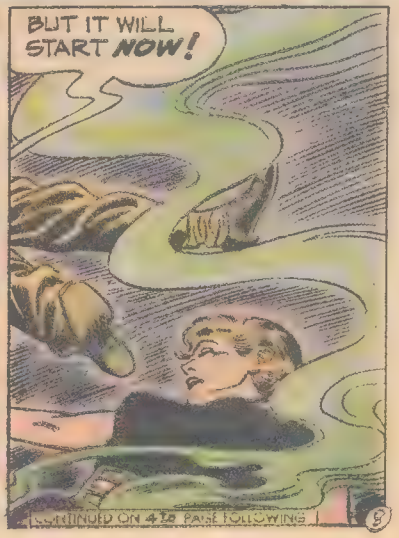
A SINISTER HOUSE SPECIAL


OH, JOHNNY! I-I THOUGHT HE WAS GOING TO KILL YOU! BUT HE JUST GRINNED--WHEN I SCREAMED--AND WALKED AWAY--KNOWING THAT WE WERE COMPLETELY IN HIS POWER!


ANY ONE OF THEM COULD HAVE KILLED US! BUT THEY'RE JUST PLAYING CAT-AND-MOUSE WITH US! WHEN WILL THE TRAP FINALLY COME DOWN FOR GOOD?
DON'T KNOW! BUT IT SHOULD BE SOON! THERE'S A PATTERN TO ALL THIS! AND I'VE A HUNCH WE'LL SEE THE WHOLE DESIGN SOON--IF WE JUST KEEP ON GOING!




NOT AN EARTHLY--BUT AN UNEARTHLY USE! FOR I AM THE ETERNAL MAN! WHEN I GROW TOO OLD TO LIVE--I PERFORM THE GREATEST OPERATION IN THE WORLD! GRAFT MY MIND IN A YOUNG MAN'S BODY! AND TRANSFER HIS MIND--TO MY USELESS, OUTWORN BODY!



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In Care of .....

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Print Your Last Name Plainly Here

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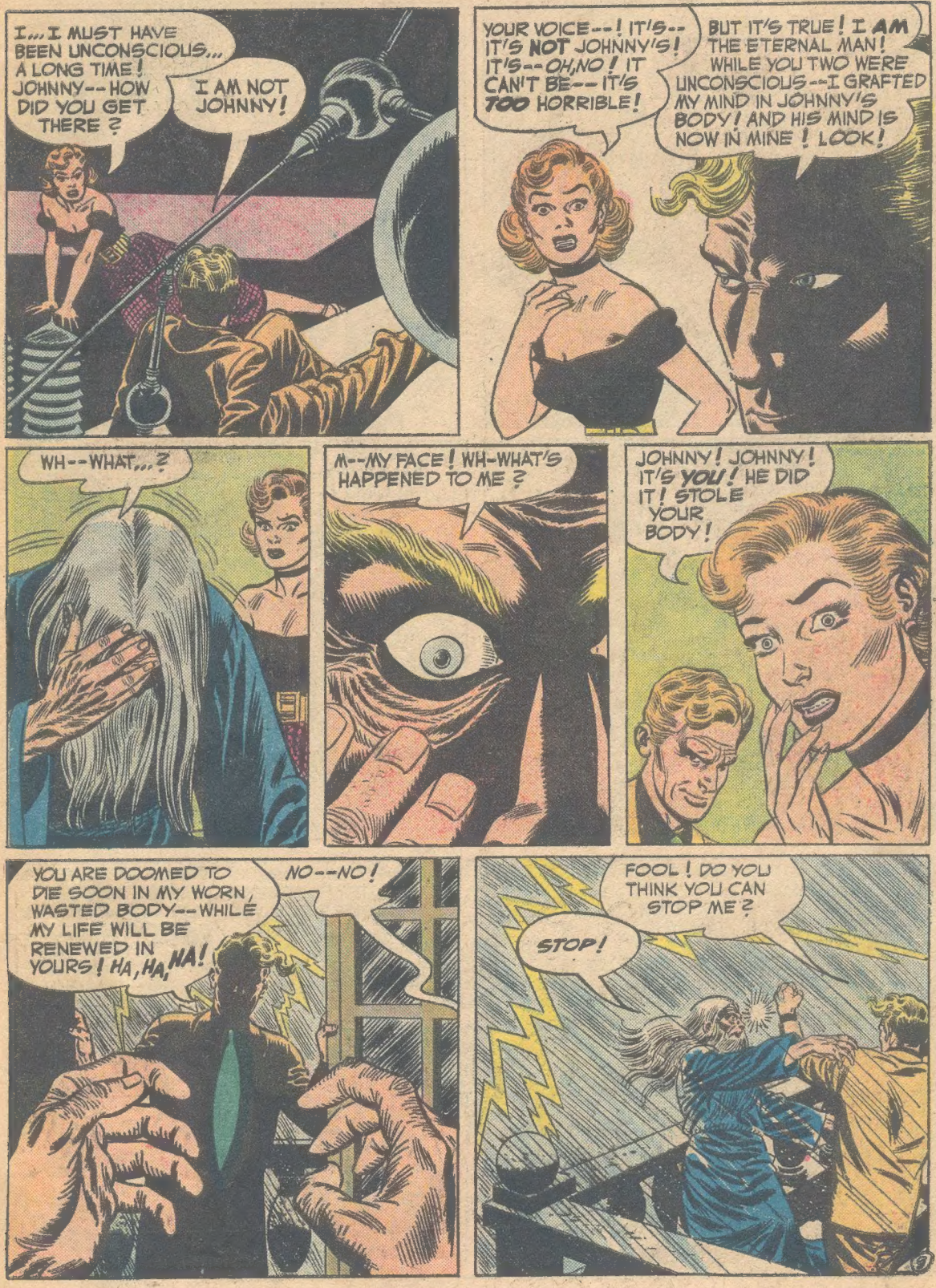
THE UNEXPECTED

#157
MAY-JUNE

On sale the second week of February.

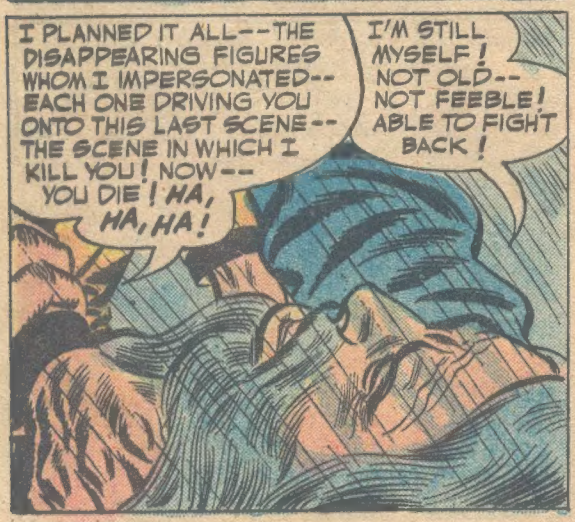
A SINISTER HOUSE SPECIAL

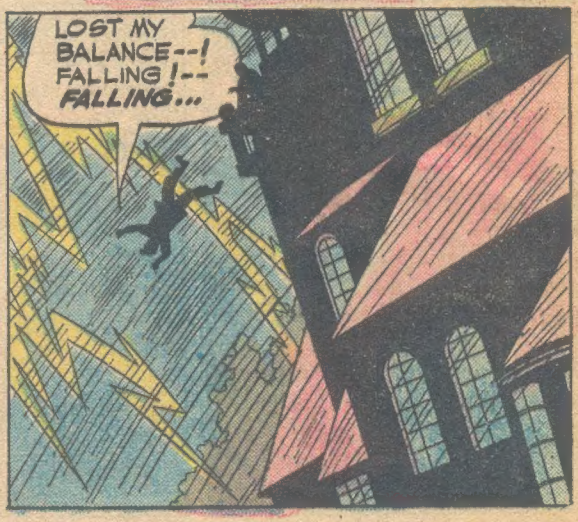

I... I MUST HAVE BEEN UNCONSCIOUS... A LONG TIME! JOHNNY--HOW DID YOU GET THERE?
I AM NOT JOHNNY!
YOUR VOICE--! IT'S-- IT'S NOT JOHNNY'S! IT'S--OH,NO! IT CAN'T BE--IT'S TOO HORRIBLE!
BUT IT'S TRUE! I AM THE ETERNAL MAN! WHILE YOU TWO WERE UNCONSCIOUS--I GRAFTED MY MIND IN JOHNNY'S BODY! AND HIS MIND IS NOW IN MINE! LOOK!
WH--WHAT...?
M--MY FACE! WH-WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ME?
JOHNNY! JOHNNY! IT'S YOU! HE DID IT! STOLE YOUR BODY!
YOU ARE DOOMED TO DIE SOON IN MY WORN, WASTED BODY--WHILE MY LIFE WILL BE RENEWED IN YOURS! HA, HA, HA!
NO--NO!
FOOL! DO YOU THINK YOU CAN STOP ME?
STOP!

A SINISTER HOUSE SPECIAL

THE RAIN! IT'S STREAKING OFF YOUR MAKEUP OF MY FACE! YOU HAVEN'T STOLEN MY BODY! YOU PUT MAKEUP ON ME WHILE I WAS UNCONSCIOUS TO FOOL ME INTO THINKING I WAS YOU! IT'S ALL A HOAX! A MAD HOAX!

IT WAS THE GREATEST ACTING YOU EVER SAW! I, KARL KANDOR, IMPERSONATED EVERYONE YOU MET SO PERFECTLY--YOU WOULD HAVE SWORN THEY WERE ALL DIFFERENT BEINGS--INSTEAD OF JUST ONE MAN!


I PLANNED IT ALL--THE DISAPPEARING FIGURES WHOM I IMPERSONATED--EACH ONE DRIVING YOU ONTO THIS LAST SCENE--THE SCENE IN WHICH I KILL YOU! NOW--YOU DIE! HA, HA, HA!
I'M STILL MYSELF! NOT OLD--NOT FEEBLE! ABLE TO FIGHT BACK!



IT'S NO USE LOOKING FOR HIS BODY ANY MORE, JOHNNY! WE CAN'T FIND IT! LET'S GET OUT OF THIS HORRIBLE PLACE!
CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHERE IT DISAPPEARED TO! WELL... LET'S GO! HAVE TO REPORT THIS TO THE LOCAL POLICE!
F. GIACOIA
S. BARRY

IT COULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED, MISTER! THAT ACTOR YOU DESCRIBED DID LIVE IN THAT HOUSE! BUT KARL KANDOR DIED IN AN INSANE ASYLUM TEN YEARS AGO! THE STORM MIGHT HAVE MADE YOU IMAGINE THIS!
B-BUT--IF WE NEVER SAW HIM BEFORE TONIGHT--AND IF HE DIED TEN YEARS AGO--HOW COULD WE KNOW WHAT HE LOOKED LIKE UNLESS--UNLESS--?
THE END

SECRET of the STRANGEST WIFE in the WORLD

B-1717

Where do I begin to tell you about my friend, Howard Cushman? When we went to college together, and he was the Don Juan of the dorm? When, some years after graduation, we met in the business world, and during some casual, aimless chatting, he could hardly contain himself from listing his female conquests? Another man may have narrated these stories with a certain amount of amusement, but not Howard. He always came on strong.

Architecture was his business, but girls were his hobby. There was a lingering note of smug satisfaction as he retold his newest triumph. I used to listen to him with a wry smile, but in all honesty, I must admit I began to resent him. Some day, I thought, one of his romances is going to boomerang. *Howie would get his!*

But that didn't seem to be in the cards when he brought Verna home. Howard was sent by his company to explore the possibility of erecting a complex of factory and workers' homes in one of the Balkan countries fringing the Carpathian Mountains, when somehow during a wild boar shoot over a weekend, his host took Howard to a peasant's hut to rest.

That's where he met Verna. He was immediately struck by her incredible beauty, raven-haired with eyes like deep purple pools, and a face that could have been chiseled out of Carrara marble.

She lived alone. How she managed to survive in these woods never occurred to him. It's almost academic to say that Howard fell deeply, hopelessly in love. Whether Verna reciprocated was a moot point. The language barrier resisted communication. Not that she even tried to speak. Howard naturally attributed this to the fact that she knew no English. She was close-mouthed, tight-lipped, forever silent.

But he hoped to correct this by putting their romance—romance on his part, at least—on a more permanent basis when he brought her home to this country to be taught our speech and customs.

What doubly attracted Howard to this silent, strange siren was the surprising and shocking fact that Verna apparently *didn't* like him. Never had such a thing happened to Howard. His ego challenged, Howard rose to the occasion.

He wooed her with an ardor that surprised even him. He painted a glowing picture of lavish living that awaited her here, jewelry, furs, a mansion. Whether or not Verna was impressed, he didn't know, but he could assume as much when she indicated she *would* marry him. The wedding rites were celebrated by a wizened patriarch from the village in Verna's hut. Even later, Howard recalled that all during the ceremony, Verna remained tight-lipped, merely nodding her vows.

If some husbands complain of their wives' ceaseless talking, Howard was not one of them. In fact, there were times when he wondered if she was a mute, or whether she suffered from a physical problem with her mouth. *He never saw it open!* She always ate her meals alone, rejected the usual social amenities of friends. But Howard basked in her beauty and the smug possession of such a rare, dark jewel.

Towards the end of the first year, Verna gave birth. Howard was jubilant when she telephoned him the news in South America where he'd been sent on a construction job. The baby was a few months old when Howard came home for his first sight of his offspring. A servant directed him to the child's bedroom where Verna was attending to his feeding.

Almost uncontrollable with excitement, Howard raced up the steps and flung open the door. The scene that greeted him was classic: the mother seated in a chair, holding the milk bottle for the infant in her lap.

Howard took a couple of impatient strides to them, then stopped hesitantly. What was the color of the fluid in the bottle? It wasn't white—*but red!* Deep red like the color of *blood!*

And then in the next nightmarish moment, Verna turned her face towards Howard and smiled. For the first time, he saw her mouth open, the parted lips revealing fangs at either side! *His wife was a vampire!* And his son . . . !?

I don't see Howard Cushman much these days, only once every few months when I visit him at an institution. He nevers utter a word, just sits in stunned silence staring at the blank wall. Yes, as I predicted, Howie the lady-killer one day would get his!

—Bill Dennehy

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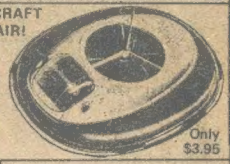

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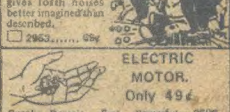

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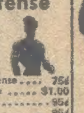

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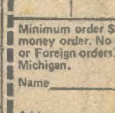

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